lested and analysed in private laboratories instead of at national laboratories of proven expertise; and

(c) what step's Government have taken against the 'Mafias' and their agents in the piant who attempted to sabotage the modification in Sudamdih Washery to cheek the flow of coal outside the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Losses suffered by Barn Standard Company Limited

2614. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Burn Standard Company Limited which is a Constituent of Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited had incurred an accumulated loss to the tune of Rs. 10 crore till—July, 1986;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Management of Burn Standard Com pany has been spending a large sums fighting a court case just to stall the implementation of Government's deci sion to pay the interim relief to the public sector employees; and

'(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUS TRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Burn Standard Co. Ltd. was incorpa. rated as Government Company with effect from 1-12-1876. The Company which was running into losses for many years the corner in 1982-83 and thereafter had been earning operating profits till 1986-87. Its accumulated loss till 31-3-1986 was Rs. 37.50 crores.

(b) Some of the major reasons for losses incurred by the company prior to 1982-83 include acute shortages in the supply of critical inputs in time, under-utilisation of capacity in the engineering units due to non-availabi lity of free supply items from Rail ways, frequent and sporadic power cuts resulting in the loss of produc tion, shortage of working capital and execution of unremunerative orders.

(c) aid (d) No, Sir. The interim relief announced by the Government in August 1987 was not Payable to the workmen of Burn Standard Co. Ltd. who are governed by the Tripartite Engineering Wage Settlement. How ever, the Employees Union at Head Office of the Company at Calcutta instituted a case against the com pany in December, 1987 for the .grant of interim relief. The question of grant of interim relief has, been re solved with the- Tripartite Engineering Wage Settlement on 28-1-1988 for all workmen and clericall supervisory staff of Central public sector engine ering units in West Bengal who were covered under the last Tripartite wage Settlement dated 2-9-1983. The company had to fincur legal expense of Rs. 46 000' (approx) for defending the aforesaid court ease.

Representation submitted by Oriental Power Cables Limited

2615. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations d to him by the workers of Oriental Power Cables Limited. Kota, requesting for the take over and merger of the Unit with Hindustan Cables Limited; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The Oriental Power Cables

Employees Union had submitted a •memorandum dated 26th November, 1987 requesting for the take-over of the company by the Government of India. The matter regarding this company is already before the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction for examination under the Sick industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

Telecommunication services in Tripura

2616. SHRI NARAYAN (CAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

fa) whether it is a fact that the sub-divisional headquarters in Tripura remain delinked due to telecommunications difficulties;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 60 per telephones of Agartala Town remain out of order for most of the time; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to improve telecommunications service in Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE); (a) No, Sir, except occasionally due to strike etc.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Although the telecommunication service at Tripura and State capital at Agartala are functioning satlisfactori-

Following steps are being taken to improve it further:

(i) For preventing faults in local system at Agartala, upgradation of underground cables and rehabilitation of Distribution points have been initiated.

(ii) For improve reliability of telecom, networks *to* other smaller stations, including sub-divisional headquarters, smaller capacity wireless system are being proposed between Capital Agartala and the stations during 8th Plan.

Fall in the standard of industrial goods

2617. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRA-VARTY; Will the Minister of 1NDUS-Y be pleased to state:

{a) whether it is a fact that the industrial goods produced in India far below the international standards and their prices in domestics, markets, too, are very high; and

(b) whether there is any proposal under tion of Government to inquire the causes of the low standards of istrial goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI) M.. *ARUNACHA*-LAM*):* (a) It will not be correct to make a general statement that the industrial goods in. India are far below the international standards and their prices in domestic markets, too, arc very high. So far as quality aspect is concerned the Bureau of Indian Standards under its Certification Marking Scheme, ensures quality levels conforming to relevant Indian Standards. In order *to* make the an industry quality conscious, efforts made to expose the Indian industries ,1 markets by allowing im-*ai* certain goods under OGL and/or ing BIS standards mandatory for large goods/commodities.

As regards prices, there are a number of products for which our prices are lower than international prices. Govern-nts main thrust is also to make the Indian industries internally competitive and cost efficient.

(b)) In specific areas where quality le-of industrial goods are below the required standards, BIS identifies the deficiencies *and* causes thereof and provides nee and assistance for quality improvement.

Prices of medicines

2618. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI Wilt the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appear-